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Agenda item 91 (e)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: ENVIRONMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.58

Strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided to establish a Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also decision 15/1, of 25 May 1989, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Governing Council, inter alia, reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the central catalysing, coordinating and stimulating body in the field of environment within the United Nations system,

Recalling further decisions 16/6 and 16/1, both of 31 May 1991, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the latter of which the Council supported the retaining at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi of the programme activity centres already located there, decided that future major extensions to the physical or other infrastructure of the Programme, particularly those with global functions, be centred principally at Nairobi, and requested the Executive Director to examine the feasibility of providing on-site interpretation facilities and to continue negotiations with the host Government with a view to improving the facilities available at the headquarters office at Nairobi, including external communication services,

Reaffirming paragraphs 38.21 and 38.23 of Agenda 21, 1/ in which it was stated that there would be a need for an enhanced and strengthened role for the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council, that, inter alia, the regional offices of the Programme should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters in Nairobi and its liaison and interaction with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank should be reinforced and intensified,

Reaffirming further paragraphs 25, 26 and 32 (c) of its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992,

Commending the United Nations Environment Programme for its leading role in the negotiation of many international conventions on the environment, its mobilization of global environmental awareness, and its contribution in the area of capacity-building in regard to the preservation of the environment and its integration into sustainable development,

Mindful of the need to rationalize meetings related to the United Nations Environment Programme so as to ensure effective capacity utilization at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters,

1. Endorses the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its seventeenth session and decisions contained therein; 2/

2. Stresses the need for close cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21;

3. Welcomes the action-oriented approach of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme towards the implementation of the follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as outlined in the report mentioned in paragraph 1 above;

4. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Kenya for the grant of an additional forty acres of land for the expansion of office facilities and the improvement of the communications network and encourages it to continue to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organs, agencies and programmes based at Nairobi work in a conducive and hospitable environment;

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/47/25).

5. Invites the Secretary-General to further strengthen the liaison function at Nairobi for the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on the basis of arrangements made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, duly taking fully into account all relevant provisions of paragraph 32 (c) of General Assembly resolution 47/191;

6. Endorses resolution 17/32 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the Environment Fund and urges Member States to contribute to the Fund, to make their payments in advance of the year to which those payments relate and to pay their contributions early in the year in order to enable the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute programmes more effectively, and emphasizes that high priority should be given to activities that offer direct or indirect substantial support to developing countries;

7. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure that as many meetings as possible related to the United Nations Environment Programme are held at Programme headquarters so as to maximize utilization of conference facilities and services;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the programming of meetings related to the United Nations Environment Programme is rationalized to facilitate economy and more effective capacity utilization at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.